

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8475

UNCLAS CAIRO 15018

T.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CVIS OEXC EG US

SUBJ: SUMMER JOBS FOR EGYPTIAN STUDENTS

REF: (A) CAIRO 3563 (B) STATE 169812; (C) STATE 173405;
(D) CAIRO 9311; (E) CAIRO 9495

1. REFTEL (A) IN MARCH 1976 WAS FIRST OF NUMEROUS MESSAGES
REGARDING SUMMER JOBS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR EGYPTIAN STUDENTS.
DATA CONCERNING ACTUAL ISSUANCE FOLLOWS:

A. EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT STUDENT PROGRAM:

(1) TOTAL OF THIRTY-TWO NAMES IN ALL GIVEN EMBASSY (EXCLUSIVE
OF STUDENTS FOR PROGRAM OF UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA.

(2) TWO NAMES SUBSEQUENTLY CANCELLED BY DEPARTMENT.

(3) OF REMAINING NAMES, THIRTEEN (13) APPLICANTS WERE ISSUED
VISAS. CABLE NOTIFICATION OF PETITION APPROVAL AND DSP-66
ISSUANCE WAS RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRIOR TO ACTUAL
DOCUMENTATION. IN EACH INSTANCE WHEN APPLICATION WAS THEN
MADE, COPY OF CABLE APPROVAL WAS ATTACHED TO APPLICANT'S
PASSPORT AND VISA ISSUED RATHER THAN REQUIRING APPLICANT
TO WAIT FOR DSP -66.

(4) UNKNOWN NUMBER OF "SELECTED" STUDENTS INQUIRED AT
EMBASSY PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF DEPARTMENT CABLES GIVING
REQUIRED DATA RE H AND J ELIBILITY. MAJORITY OF
STUDENTS STATED THEY HAD ALTERNATIVE PLANS FOR VACATION
PERIOD AND PREFERRED PROCEED WITH THOSE RATHER THAN
DELAY FOR VISA ISSUANCE AUTHORIZATION. ONE STUDENT
ELECTED NOT TO PURSUE APPLICATION FOR H VISA, VERY
POSSIBLY BECAUSE TRAINING INDICATED "WAITING ON DINING
ROOM CUSTOMERS".

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B. ISLAMIC FOUNDATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA STUDENT

PROGRAM (REFTEL (D)):

(1) FINAL LIST TOTALED SIXTY-TWO NAMES.

(2) OF THESE, FIFTY-FIVE APPLIED, WERE FOUND ELIGIBLE,
AND RECEIVED B-2 VISAS.

2. EARLY PUBLICITY RE ON-THE-JOB SUMMER TRAINING FOR EGYPTIAN STUDENTS WAS PRINCIPALLY GENERATED BY "AL AKABAR" JOURNALIST ABDEL ATTI HAMID. WHILE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY SPONSORED SUMMER STUDENT PROGRAM LAGGED DUE TO DELAYED RECEIPT OF NECESSARY H AND J DATA, VISA ISSUANCE OF ELIGIBLE ISLAMIC COUNCIL SPONSORED STUDENTS, ALTHOUGH APPLICATIONS NOT INITIATED UNTIL MID-JULY WITH EMBASSY, WAS EFFECTED RAPIDLY BECAUSE ONLY B-2 VISAS WERE INVOLVED. SAME "AL AKHBAR" REPRESENTATIVE WORKED CLOSELY WITH ISLAMIC COUNCIL DIRECTOR, A, MUSHIN EL BIALI IN LATTER PROGRAM.

3. WIDE PUBLICITY WAS GIVEN ISLAMIC GROUP THROUGH TELEVISION PROGRAM "INTERNATIONAL CLUB". SPECIAL MENTION WAS MADE OF EMBASSY COOPERATION IN EXPEDITIOUS HANDLING OF VISA APPLICATIONS.

4. ONCE BEGUN, HOWEVER UNSUCCESSFUL FIRST EGYPTIAN EMBASSY SPONSORED VENTURE FOR SUCH SUMMER EMPLOYMENT MAY HAVE BEEN, EMBASSY CAIRO FEELS THERE IS STRONG LIKELIHOOD THAT THE GENERAL STUDENTS UNION OF ARE AND POSSIBLY OTHER GROUPS WILL EXPECT PROGRAM ON A CONTINING ANNUAL BASIS AS HAS BEEN THE CASE IN VARIOUS EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. AS STATED IN PARA 5 REFTEL (D), IT APPEARS THERE IS BELIEF THAT AN AGREEMENT EXISTS BETWEEN ARE AND USA CONCERNING STUDENT EXCHANGE. THE FACT THAT ONLY ABOUT HALF OF THE STUDENTS ORIGINALLY "SELECTED" ACTUALLY RECEIVED VISAS UNDER EGYPTIAN EMBASSY SPONSORSHIP IS POSSIBLY UNKNOWN TO OTHER OR WILL PROBABLY BE IGNORED AS NEXT SUMMER APPROACHES.

5. USIS PROGRAM OFFICER WILL BE CONSULTING IN DEPT CU NOV. 17-19 FOLLOWING JWG MEETING. SUGGEST DEPT ARRANGE CONSULTATION THIS SUBJECT WITH DESK OFFICER CU/NEA CLAUDIA ANYASO.

ACTION REQUESTED: THE DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT AGREEMENT MENTIONED IN REFTEL (D) WAS MADE OR IS CONTEMPLATED
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WOULD BE APPRECIATED. IF AFFIRMATIVE, ANY DETAILS THAT MIGHT BE PROVIDED WOULD BE WELCOMED.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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